

# Newport History

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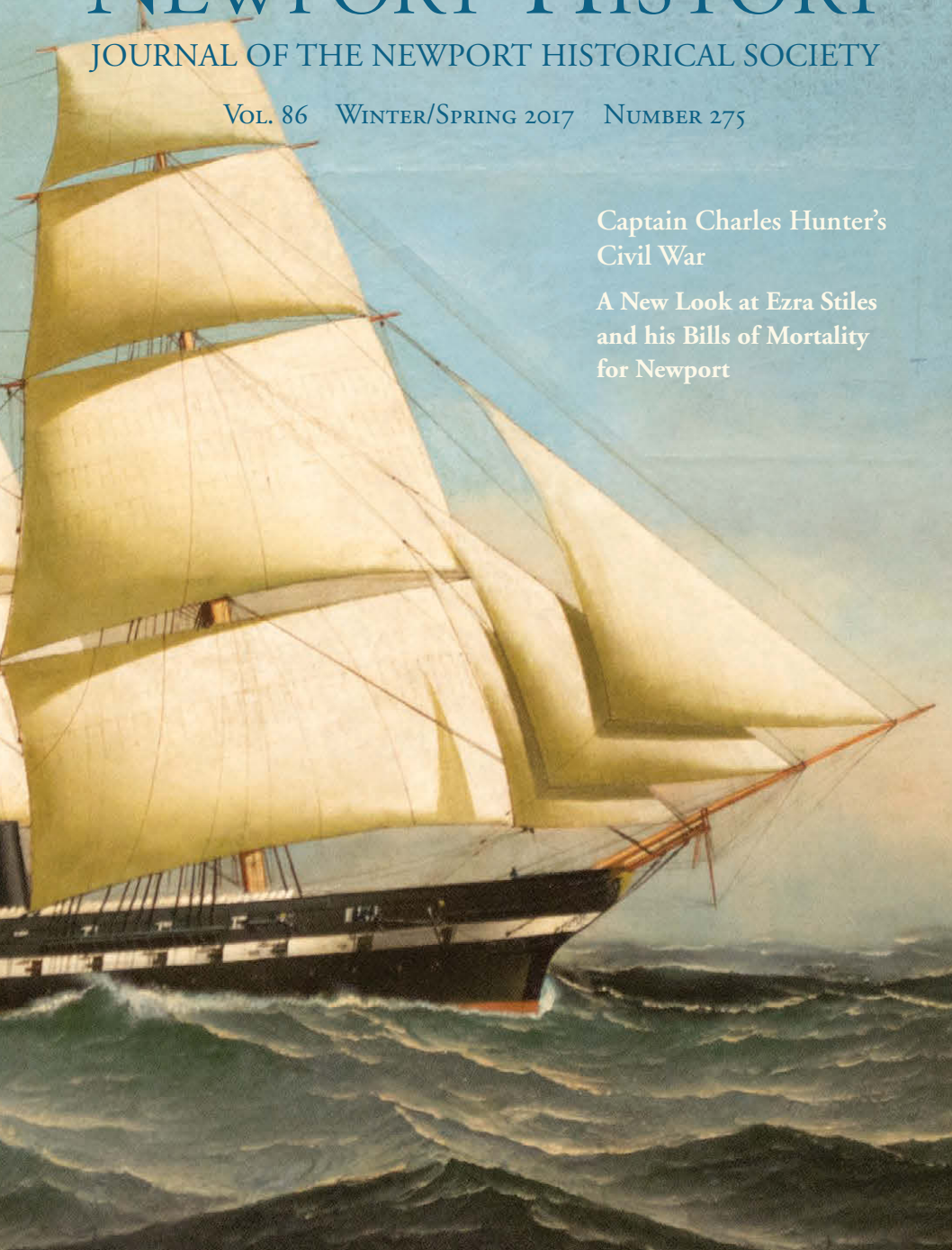
# NEWPORT HISTORY

JOURNAL OF THE NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 86 WINTER/SPRING 2017 NUMBER 275

Captain Charles Hunter's  
Civil War

A New Look at Ezra Stiles  
and his Bills of Mortality  
for Newport



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NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.NewportHistory.org](http://www.NewportHistory.org)

COVER: USS *Minnesota* was a wooden steam frigate that was part of the North American Blockading Squadron during the Civil War.

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Portrait of Ezra Stiles, (SEE PAGE 33).

Membership in the Newport Historical Society is renewed annually. Those interested in becoming members are cordially invited to contact the Society or visit the website at [www.NewportHistory.org](http://www.NewportHistory.org).

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## *Write Your Way to Hamilton: Big Ideas for a Changing World*

Rhode Island has been a place of many firsts – innovation runs deep in the Ocean State. It's the first place in the modern world to incorporate the revolutionary principle of religious freedom in its governing documents. That idea and the related concept of separation of church and state went on to sweep the world. Today these principles are included in the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Just a little more than one hundred years later, Rhode Islanders changed the world again – this time by starting the Industrial Revolution in America. Last fall the Newport Historical Society challenged Rhode Island's high school sophomores to imagine the future by thinking about the past. In a contest entitled *Write your Way to Hamilton: Big Ideas for a Changing World*, students were asked to be inspired by Rhode Island's history and write an essay describing what is happening or could happen in their communities that might change the world. All of the essays were thought-provoking, and from them the judges selected winners from each county.

Recognition and prizes included an event at the Statehouse for all entrants and their families, a trip to NYC to see the award-winning *Hamilton, An American Musical* for all winners, and the publication of two winning essays on the NHS website.

### ESSAY COMPETITION WINNERS

#### **Mary Breen**

Classical High School  
"Block Island's Wind Turbines"

#### **Rebecca Carcieri**

Toll Gate High School  
"TF Green Airport Expansion"

#### **Emily Gorman**

Barrington High School  
"Bag the Bag"

#### **Genevieve Laprade**

North Kingstown High School  
"Kid Talk"

#### **Mollie McGrady**

Narragansett High School  
"Sea Level Rise"

#### **Callie Rathbun**

North Kingstown High School  
"One Small State Makes a Big Religious Impact"

#### **George Saban**

North Providence High School  
"Transforming R.I. into a Knowledge Hub Community"

#### **Sophia Smerkar**

Coventry High School  
"The Wind Revolution"

#### **Athena Vieira**

East Bay Met School  
"The Ocean State that Could Save the Ocean"

#### **Sam Wohlever**

Barrington High School  
"The Power of Energy"

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